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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,481	07/19/2001	Lyndon W. Graham	29195.8108US1	3202
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PERKINS COIE LLP				
PATENT-SEA				
P.O. BOX 1247				
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247				
EXAMINER				
LEADER, WILLIAM T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1742				

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,481

Applicant(s)

GRAHAM ET AL.

Examiner

William T. Leader

Art Unit

1742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 50-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 50-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040414.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.
3. Claims 50-53 were filed with the amendment of January 3, 2002. Claim 50 is directed to an apparatus for electrically processing a workpiece. The last paragraph of claim 50 recites an "exhaust gas conduit". This term does not appear in the specification as filed. Neither the term "exhaust" nor the term "conduit" appears in the specification as filed. The term "gas" appears in two places: at page 20, line 13 and at page 25, line 8. However, neither of these two portions of the specification is considered to describe structure that might be considered to be an exhaust gas conduit. Page 20, lines 12-14 describe a cup assembly that has a depending skirt 371 which extends below the cup bottom 323 and may have flutes open therethrough. Page 25, lines 6-10 describe the lower surface of door ring member

984 and an annular rotor receiving groove 988 which receives top peripheral portions of the rotor.

4. Claim 51 recites a "first wall", a "second wall", and an "intermediate wall". The terms "first wall", "second wall" and "intermediate wall" do not appear in the specification as filed.

5. Claim 53 recites a second surface of the at least one wall and an auxiliary electrode carried in the groove. The term "groove" appears at two places in the specification: at page 25, line 1 and at page 25, line 7. Page 25, lines 1-12 describe door ring member 984 which is provided with a groove which receives the lower edge of the first housing piece 971. The specification does not describe an auxiliary electrode as being present in this portion of the apparatus.

6. Claims 50-53 are considered to include new matter, as identified above, which was not described in the specification as filed. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that "No amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 50 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bacon et al (4,466,864).

9. The Bacon et al patent is directed to method and apparatus for electrically processing a workpiece by electroplating. The apparatus includes a processing vessel which includes a first wall 46, a workpiece support 38 proximate to the processing vessel, a support 43 configured to carry a second electrode 61. The apparatus of Bacon et al corresponds to the apparatus illustrated in applicant's figures 2-4. The bottom of the plating vessel is flat as shown in applicant's figures 5C-8. As noted above, applicant's specification does not describe an exhaust gas conduit as recited in claim 50. To the extent that such a conduit is present in the apparatus disclosed by applicant, it would be present in the apparatus shown by Bacon et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William T. Leader whose telephone number is 571-272-1245. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays and alternate Fridays, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King, can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WL

William Leader

June 8, 2004

ROY KING 
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700